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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

(1) Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

With reference to FIG. 1, a personal shopping system 10 is suitable for combined ~~use~~ ^{[[used]]} in both a home 12 of a user and at least one shopping establishment 14. The system includes a host computer 16. Host computer 16 can be located in shopping establishment 14, or can be otherwise associated therewith; e.g., it can be remotely located therefrom but in communication with other components of the system within shopping establishment 14. For example, the host computer 16 could be a grocery or retail store's main computer which is coupled to a set of cash registers; a central site system dedicated for home shopping or shopping generally from locations other than a store's retail facility; or a combination of both. Internet access to host 16 can also be employed.

(2) Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

The system yet further includes a home cradle 30 which ~~is~~ ^{[[ix]]} associated with the home 12 of the user. In this context, "associated" would normally imply that the home cradle 30 is located within the home or at some nearby location where it is convenient for the user to use the home cradle without having to separately travel to a shopping establishment 14. Home cradle 30 includes a home portable terminal-receiving station 32 and a home data interface 34 which is associated with the home portable terminal-receiving station 32. Again, by "associated" it is meant that the data interface 34 is so located so as to interface with a corresponding two-way data interface of a portable terminal, to be discussed below, when the portable terminal is placed in the portable terminal-receiving station 32 of the home cradle 30. It is to be understood that the home cradle 30 can be arranged and configured for use in other locations, such as the office or other public location.

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(3) Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Preferably, the personal computer 68 of FIG. 2 executes a ring suppression software routine for suppressing telephone rings when the host computer 16 attempts to access the portable terminal 40 in the home. This is especially advantageous during the middle of the night, when most shoppers are asleep and the host computer may be performing data base updates needed by the portable terminal 40 for the following day's transactions. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, ring suppression is performed by checking the Caller Line ID (CLI) at the modem [[prior]] before the first ring. When a CLI is detected, the ring suppression routine compares the CLI to a database of "ring suppress" telephone numbers stored in the personal computer 68. If the CLI matches a "ring suppress" number, then the modem is operated to suppress the ring and answer the phone. Otherwise, the modem is operated to allow the telephone to ring in a normal manner.

(4) Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 41, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

To further enhance the efficiency of the user's shopping experience, the method can include the additional steps of sensing the location of the portable terminal 40 with the position-sensing module 90. This position presumably corresponds to the position of user 58 within the shopping establishment 14. In this case, the method can include the additional step of communicating a message advising the user 58 when the user 58 has deviated from the efficient path 104. This message could be generated by wireless communication from host computer 16 to portable terminal 40, or could be generated otherwise; for example, within terminal 40 in response to downloaded information regarding location of goods. Still referring to FIG. 4, when user 58 embarks upon an inefficient path 106, symbolized by dash-dotted lines, a message can be sent to the user 58 to indicate that he or she should traverse to one of the shelves 102 which would have been missed in taking inefficient path 106. More preferably, the list can be re-optimized with new directions based on the user's new location. The communicating step can

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optionally include an audible communication using speaker 88 of portable terminal 40. One of the previously-discussed keys on portable terminal 40 can be programmed as an interactive marketing help key to alert shopping establishment personnel to the customer's location.

(5) Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 47, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 10A shows another embodiment of the portable terminal of the present invention. This embodiment is similar to the embodiment of FIG. 9A, but in addition includes two bar code activation buttons 82 disposed on the left and ~~rights~~ right of the terminal each for triggering bar code reading by the user. As shown, two bar code activation buttons 82 disposed on the two sides of the terminal housing allow the user to simultaneously view the terminal display while viewing the visible light source upon activation of the bar code scanner.

(6) Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 63, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Mounted on the front face of the Ethernet cradle 1930 are a plurality of visual indicators for displaying the operational status of the portable terminals connected to the Ethernet cradle 1930. For the 4-slot Ethernet cradle corresponding to FIG. 24, for example, there are four LEDs 1 through 4 corresponding to each of the docking stations. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, each of the LED's has six associated color states: OFF, Solid RED, Slow Flash RED, Fast Flash RED, Slow Flash GREEN and Solid GREEN. When an LED is OFF, no portable terminal is presently connected to the corresponding slot. A solid RED indicates the presence of a portable terminal, but with no established communication session. The flashing RED states both indicate error conditions with the communications link to the portable terminal: a slow flash RED indicates that communication to the portable terminal did not start, and a fast flash RED indicates that communication did not end. A slow flash GREEN at a 2 Hertz blink cycle, for example, indicates that a communication session has been established and is in

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progress with a connected portable terminal. A solid GREEN indicates the presence of a portable terminal with a completed communication session.

(7) Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 91, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

At times when there are large numbers of customers using the system, checking a large transaction may mean that other customers are kept waiting for an unacceptable time. To speed up checkout processing at busy times, checking can be disabled for a period of time. Because the decision to check a customer's transaction is made when the portable terminal is returned to the rack, customers currently waiting at checkouts may still be checked; however, any customers who ~~return~~ returns a portable terminal to the rack while checking is disabled will go through without checking.

(8) Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 93, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring once again to FIG. 36, the picking module 3606 allows a customer to remotely generate a shopping list that is tendered using the PSS system. Preferably, tendering is performed using the standard function of PSA interfaced to a POS system. [[+]]